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AN

Impartial Relation

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

COMMON-HALL,

AND

COURT of ALDERMEN,

On *Monday* the 29th of *September*, 1740. at the ELECTION of a Lord Mayor for the Year enſuing.

In which is inſerted,

A LIST of the Aldermen who voted for, and againſt ſetting aſide Sir ROB. GODSCHAL, who, as next the Chair, had been recommended to them by the unanimous Voice of the COMMON-HALL, as every way qualify'd for, and highly worthy of, the Office of Supreme Magiſtrate of the City of *London*; and the Names of thoſe who were ABSENT.

WITH

The Remarkable SPEECH which immediately preceded this ever memorable Tranſaction.

The Whole addreſſed to the Ab—s'd Liverymen and an Aff—ted Community.

By a CITIZEN.

LONDON:

Printed for *T. Robins*, in *Fleet-Street*. 1740. Price 6 *d.*

AN

Impartial Relation

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

COMMON-HALL,

AND

COURT of ALDERMEN,

On Monday the 29th of September, 1760.

Containing a Description of the Lord Mayor for the Year ensuing.

Also a Character of the Aldermen who voted for, and against electing the Right Hon. GEORGE-BARR, who, as next the Chair, had been recommended to them by the unanimous Voice of the COMMON-HALL, as every Way qualify'd for, and highly worthy of, the Office of Supreme Magistrate of the City of London; and the Names of those who were Absent.

WITH

The Speeches of the several Gentlemen immediately preceded with every memorable Transaction.

The Whole collected by the Author of the Political Register, and an Alderman of London.

PRINTED FOR J. ALMON, OPPOSITE BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Almon, in Piccadilly. 1760. Price 6d.

AN

Impartial Relation

OF THE

Proceedings of the COMMON-HALL and Court of ALDERMEN, on *Monday* the 29th of *September*, 1740.

Brethren and Fellow Citizens,

THE Man who with Care and Judgment, looks back on ſome former Tranſactions, will not be much ſurprized at the preſent Situation we are in; he need not review Things any farther than from the Time of the ever-infamous Exciſe-Scheme, to raiſe his Indignation againſt ſeveral Attempts of our Enemies to abuſe, divide, and ruin us: Let him but recollect what has paſſed ſince, and he muſt be fully perſuaded, in his own Breaſt, that it has been greatly owing to our own Unanimity and Weight; to that calm, judicious, ſteady Deportment, which the Citizens of *London* have ſhewn upon all publick Occaſions, that their Liberties and Trade have not met the ſame Fate;

and both been at the Mercy of thoſe who ſeem to envy them the Enjoyment of either.

But as Artifice and little low Cunning, *the Reſource of Knaves*, will never, in the Iſſue, get the better of Experience and Wiſdom; ſo neither can we have any Reaſon to be afraid of the Conſequences, when the Man of Honour and Ability is engaged with him, who may be notoriouſly known to be ſhamefully defective in both: A People might as well apprehend a national Deſtruction from the Hand of one Man, who was a national Grievance, and hated as ſuch by every Friend to Virtue and his Country; by every Perſon who wiſhed the Honour of the King and the Proſperity of his Kingdoms; as that the Deſigns of a weak and wicked —— to break in upon the publick Tranquility, how covertly ſoever diſguiſed, ſhould not at length turn wholly upon himſelf, and prove to his Loſs and Confuſion.

From theſe general Obſervations, *tho' not at all applicable to the preſent Caſe*, I enter upon the Affair more immediately before us; in order to give the World a full and an authentick Account of a Tranſaction, which will entail laſting Honour upon ſome Names, and as laſting ——— upon others, in the preſent Day; and perhaps may hand down a Character or two, in very different Lights, to lateſt Poſterity.

Tho' it is not neceſſary, for the refreſhing of any of our Memories, to refer to ſo recent an Example, as was lately made of a Gentleman, upon whom the Choice for Chief-Magiſtrate of this City would have fallen, according to the accuſtomed Rotation; yet it is requiſite to do ſo, in order to render this Narrative complete, and for ſeveral other Reaſons, which may be much more eaſily diſcovered by the Reader, than it may be con-

convenient, or even ſafe, for the Author of this Treatiſe to explain to him.

In the Year 1739, *a Year which ſome Perſons in* Great-Britain *will always have Occaſion to remember*; an Affair which was thought of the higheſt Importance, and of the utmoſt Conſequence to the Honour and Welfare of the Nation in general, and of the Trade of the Kingdom in particular, became the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry: This was the THING called a *Convention*; which I do not remember ever to have heard ſpoken of, *except by thoſe whoſe private Intereſt was concerned in its taking place*, but in Terms of Deteſtation; with Curſes on the Contrivers of it, and ſo many opprobious Epithets annexed, that the *Engliſh* Language ſeemed exhauſted of thoſe Flowers, upon the Occaſion, to do Juſtice, as 'twas ſaid, to that —famous Tranſaction, and to a Manager of it.

You cannot forget, my Friends, and Fellow Citizens, that a certain very worthy Alderman of *London*, did not behave upon this Occaſion in a Manner that proved acceptable to us; tho', no doubt, he acted according to *his* Honour and Conſcience; and, *according to the Light he ſaw it in*, for the *beſt*; but being ſo unhappy as to differ in Opinion from our Sentiments, which he could be no Stranger to, and from the general Senſe of the Nation, and to vote directly contrary to the four worthy Members, to whom the Citizens of *London* had committed in Charge the Care of their Affairs in Parliament, we thought fit to ſhew our Diſapprobation of his Conduct, in a Manner, we judged moſt proper to prevent, for the future, thoſe who expected any Favours or Honours at our Hands, from acting inconſiſtent with our Inclination, and what we imagine at leaſt, to be for our Intereſt,

and promoted another (when the Office of chief Magiſtracy came, in Courſe, to be his Due) to be Lord Mayor of *London*.

This Exerciſe of what is the indiſputable Right and Privilege of the Liverymen of *London*, 'twas not poſſible to foreſee could be attended with any ill Conſequences; but promiſed rather many valuable Advantages, not only to the City itſelf, but to every Place in the Kingdom, where this Pattern, worthy of Imitation, could be copy'd after. Tho' 'tis very certain, that the wiſeſt, beſt concerted Meaſures, have ſometimes, by the wanton, wicked Inſtruments of Power, been converted to the vileſt Purpoſes; yet, as this *never has been*, ſo, 'tis not feared, it never will be perverted, or made an ill uſe of, during the Adminiſtration of the excellent virtuous Miniſter we are at preſent, and long have been bleſſed with. Should any Man be fooliſh or impious enough to attempt it, it is not doubted, but that he will find his pernicious Deviſes defeated; and the Miſchief he intended to others, fall with redoubled Weight upon himſelf.

But to come cloſer to Facts: At ſeveral Meetings of the worthy Liverymen of *London*, previous to the Day of Election, in 1739, they came to a Reſolution to ſhew their juſt Reſentment, *as it is called*, by ſetting aſide a certain Perſon, whoſe Conduct they diſapproved, and electing another, inſtead of him, for Lord Mayor for the then enſuing Year; purſuant to which Reſolution, Sir *G——ge C——n* was rejected, and Sir *John Salter*, and Sir *Robert Godſchal*, Knights and Aldermen, by the almoſt unanimous Conſent of the Common-Hall, were returned to the Court of Aldermen, for to chuſe one of them to be Lord Mayor for the Year 1740: When at a Court of *Huſtings*,

Huſtings, held afterwards, at *Guildhall*, the former of theſe was declared duly elected; and entered upon his Office accordingly.

This being a ſuccinct Account of the Proceedings of the Common-Hall, and Court of Aldermen, laſt Year; let us examine a little, how conſonant to this, has the Conduct of either been this Year.

And, unleſs we do Juſtice to both Sides, it is impoſſible but that the Publick muſt be impoſed upon. One Side, we are aſſured, deſires only to have Juſtice done them; and the other, it is to be hoped, are not afraid of the like Treatment; for no Men can have any Cauſe to be afraid of an impartial Repreſentation of their publick Actions, but thoſe, who have conducted themſelves in a Manner which wo'nt bear Examination, and have done ſomething they ought to be aſhamed of.

The better to explain Matters, I begin with what paſſed at *Guildhall* on *Monday* the 29th of *September* laſt, when, at a Court of *Huſtings*, came on the Election of a Lord Mayor to ſucceed Sir *John Salter*, when Sir *Robert Godſchal*, Knight and Alderman, and *George Heathcote*, Eſq; Alderman, were returned by the *Common-Hall* to the Court of Aldermen, who *thought proper* to chuſe *George Heathcote*, Eſq; and he was accordingly declared duly elected: Upon which Sir *Robert Godſchal* addreſſed himſelf to the Livery, and returned them Thanks for the Honour they did him; expreſſing his Concern, that his Brethren of the Court of Aldermen had, without any Reaſon aſſigned, denied him the Favour intended him by his Fellow Citizens; and, as he was not conſcious of any Demerit in himſelf, he hoped they would juſtify their Conduct to the World. After which Alderman *Heathcote* declared his grateful

grateful Senſe of the Honour done him, but deſired his Fellow Citizens would excuſe his ſerving them in that Capacity for the enſuing Year, on account of his ill State of Health, and the fatiguing, tho' honourable Office, which he had ſo lately undergone, eſpecially as his Brethren had not made the leaſt Objection to the worthy Alderman, his Senior, either in Point of Honour, Ability, or Integrity. After which a Motion was made by *William Benn*, Eſq; and ſeconded by Mr. *Charles Hitch*, "That the Thanks of this "Hall be given to *George Heathcote*, Eſq; for "ſupporting the Liberties of his Fellow Citizens, "in declining the Office of Lord Mayor for the "enſuing Year." And the Queſtion being thereupon put, the ſame was carried by the unanimous Voice of the Common Hall.

The following Gentlemen were preſent *in the Court of Aldermen.*

Sir *John Salter*, Kt. Lord-Mayor.

Sir *John Eyles*, Bart.	*John Barber*, Eſq;
Sir *Robert Baylis*, Kt.	Sir *John Barnard*, Kt.
Sir *Wm. Billers*, Kt.	Sir *Rob. Godſchal*, Kt.
Sir *John Williams*, Kt.	*Geo. Heathcote*, Eſq;
Sir *John Thompſon*, Kt.	*Daniel Lambert*, Eſq;
Sir *Harc. Maſter*, Kt.	Sir *John Lequeſne*, Kt.
Sir *Geo. Champion*, Kt.	*Henry Marſhall*, Eſq;
Sir *William Rouſe*, Kt.	*Richard Hoare*, Eſq;
Sir *Joſ. Hankey*, Kt.	
William Baker, Eſq;	
George Arnold, Eſq;	

Of which the *Eleven* were for *George Heathcote*, Eſq; And the *Eight* for *Sir Robert Godſchal.*

A B-

ABSENT.

Humph. Parſons, Eſq;	*Richard Levett*, Eſq;
Sir *Ed. Bellamy*, Kt.	*Robert Willimot*, Eſq;
Micajah Berry, Eſq;	*Robert Weſtley*, Eſq;

How conſiſtent with the Intention of the Liverymen this Declaration was, appeared by the general Conſternation it threw them into, who heard it: Every Man ſeemed ſurpriſed and ſhocked, *except thoſe who underſtood the Recorder's Speech*, and all to treat it with a becoming Diſpleaſure and Reſentment; but the Whole will be ſet in the beſt Light, by comparing this with the former Election; explaining the Behaviour and the Views of the Liverymen at both, and by giving the true Character of him who was rejected by the Common-Hall, almoſt *Nemine Contradicente*, and of a Gentleman, whom a Majority of Aldermen unjuſtly rejected, as it has been ſaid, not only againſt the general Senſe of the Common-Hall, but in oppoſition to their unanimous Recommendations in his Favour: And let Mankind judge of the Reaſons for both.

As had been done the Year before, the Gentlemen of the Livery were invited, by Notice in the publick Papers ſome Days before the Day of Election, to meet at *Vintners-Hall*, in order to agree upon two proper Perſons to be returned to the Court of Aldermen, for them to chuſe one, Lord-Mayor for the Year enſuing; when being both equally worthy and deſerving, they returned the two *ſenior* Aldermen below the Chair; on a firm Dependance, that as no Objection could be poſſibly made to the Abilities and Character of either of them, the Choice would devolve upon him, as it did laſt Year, and for many Years in the like Caſe has done before, who was next of Courſe to

be

be choſen. This was what was aimed at and accompliſhed by the Gentlemen of the Livery laſt Year, and it was what was deſigned this Year; but eleven, out of nineteen Aldermen, being in a different Way of Thinking, diſconcerted the Methods they had pitched upon, to maintain the Honour, and preſerve the Peace of the City.

But before I enter upon farther Particulars, allow me to give a Summary of the whole Affair, which has been already publickly addreſſed to you Gentlemen of the Livery, in the following Words.

To the Worthy Liverymen of the City of *London*.

GENTLEMEN,

I *Dare ſay none of you who heard the Speech delivered to you by your worthy Recorder, was at all ſurpriſed at what happened afterwards.*

His Speech was adapted to prepare and conciliate your Minds, as far as might be, to what was afterwards to be tranſacted; to that Wantonneſs of Power that was immediately to be exerciſed by Eleven *of the Aldermen.*

If thoſe Gentlemen conſulted their learned Aſſiſtant upon the Legality of their intended Act, he could not but inform them that they had a Power to do what they have ſince done; but if they had conſulted him upon the Expediency of it, I am perſuaded, from that Gentleman's Regard to the Peace, from his Attachment to the Intereſts of the City, he would have diſſuaded them from the Exerciſe of it.

What could thoſe Eleven *Gentlemen mean, by* unjuſtly *rejecting a Gentleman of Merit who was the ſenior Alderman, and who had been recommended to them by the unanimous Voice of the Common-Hall, but groſly to affront that Community which they ought to reverence and eſteem? What could they*

mean,

mean, I ſay, but to ſhew (an ill-judged and an ill-timed Reſentment to you, the Liverymen of London, *for having juſtly rejected one from the ſame Office of Magiſtracy who had ſhewed himſelf* unworthy *of ſo great a Truſt in the Opinion of all Mankind?*

If this was their Meaning, (and it could be no other) you will be juſtify'd, Gentlemen, in ſhewing your Reſentment to every one of thoſe Perſons (and I hope you will do it) upon all lawful Occaſions.

I am confident there is but one Man in the Kingdom, who could have been capable of adviſing (I ſhould have ſaid of directing) ſuch an extraordinary Step, ſuch a wanton and ill-timed Exerciſe of Power; and I cannot think that even he would have done it, if his Deſtiny had not been nigh at Hand. For,

Quem perdere vult Jupiter, dementat prius.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your ſincere Friend

And Well-Wiſher,

S. I.

If the Author of this Letter is right in his Conjectures, the whole Secret is diſcovered at once; and we can be no longer at a Loſs for the Contriver of a Deſign to impoſe upon and affront the Citizens of *London*; tho' there is no fear but their good Senſe will guard them againſt the Wiles of their Enemy, and direct them to Methods for turning to their own Advantage every evil Intention to divide that Intereſt, which makes them valued and feared, or to enflame them.

You, Gentlemen, juſtly rejected one, he ſays, from the Office of Magiſtracy, who had ſhewn himſelf unworthy of ſo great a Truſt, in the Opinion of, almoſt, all Mankind; but can any Thing like this, be ſaid, or was it ever ſuggeſted, of the Gentleman who miſſed of a Declaration in his Favour upon the late Day of Election: The Common-Hall ſet aſide a Man, in whatever Shape of Life, almoſt, we view him, deſerving to be ſet aſide — for Reaſons which will juſtify their doing ſo to all the World; the Court of Aldermen, *to their laſting Honour*, rejected a Gentleman of Honour, Ability, and Integrity, *there is no expreſſing his well-known Character in better Terms*, who in publick, as well as in private Life, has always behaved in a Manner, which has ſecured to him the Regard and Eſteem of Mankind. A Perſon, whoſe Circumſtances ſet him above a mean Action, and whoſe Principles render him incapable of an ill one.

They were pleaſed to overlook a Gentleman, for no Reaſons, but ONE, which can, as we find, poſſibly be gueſſed at, whoſe Qualifications and Deſert, by all impartial, judicious Men are look'd upon to be ſuch, as not only make him moſt worthy of the Chair he was deſigned to fill; but ſuch, as would make him at once both the Honour and Support of the high Office of Magiſtracy he was propoſed to be placed in; and which, if not a national Loſs, will at leaſt be an irreparable Damage to the Metropolitan City of the Kingdom, if he is to be diſappointed of it.

The Animoſity and Ill-blood which ſuch Proceedings may occaſion, the wiſeſt Man alive may not be able to foreſee; but if the Step lately taken, was for a Sample of what may hereafter be expected from a certain Set of Gentlemen, it might in Time become abſolutely requiſite for the

the Good of the Community, and Peace of the City, to diveſt them of the *Negative Voice*, they ſo much plume themſelves upon, and place it with thoſe, *if any ſuch are to be found*, who have the Unanimity, Satisfaction, and true Intereſt of their Fellow Citizens chiefly at Heart.

The Man, who endeavours to bite without Teeth, diſcovers at once his Impotency and Malice; and when the Snake in the Graſs is ſeen, the Paſſenger is ſufficiently guarded againſt Injury: Both theſe Caſes ſeem to be very applicable upon the preſent Occaſion; and there is but little Doubt to be made, but that the Iſſue of Affairs will make it ſtill more evident that they are ſo.

The Man of Senſe, Steadineſs, and Intrepidity, of ſtrict Honour, and of not-to-be-corrupted Virtue, is not to be made a Tool of; the Intereſt of the Community he prefers to every private Conſideration; and the Dignity he deſerves, and would become, and ſupport, has no Temptation ſtrong enough to biaſs his Soul, to the Prejudice of another's Right, and of the publick Tranquillity: What he would highly and principally eſteem, as the Teſtimony of the Affection and Regards for him, of his Fellow Citizens, when offered him in due Courſe, he would as abſolutely decline, when put upon him, not only contrary to their Intentions and Inclination, but in Oppoſition to their moſt ſtrenuous Endeavours on the Behalf of a Gentleman, whoſe conſtant Attachment to their Intereſt, and Labours in their Service, were univerſally allowed, greatly to plead for the moſt grateful Returns.

To the laſting Honour of the Gentleman who is now the Lord Mayor Elect, we find him, *as is already mentioned*, refuſe and decline the Office, thus put upon him, at the Time the Election was

declared in his Favour; and in a pathetick, handſome Speech, *of which no Man is more capable*, recommending his Friend, whoſe Right he eſteemed it, to the Acceptance of his worthy Brethren of the Court of Aldermen — but in vain; — they appeared reſolved and determined, and not to be prevailed upon on his Behalf: However, Mr. Alderman *Heathcote*'s Behaviour was ſo acceptable to the Gentlemen of the Livery upon this Occaſion, *as it has indeed always been upon every other Occaſion*, that, at the Motion of *William Benn*, Eſq; a Gentleman of as much Honour as any Man alive, whoſe Worth (which may one Day entitle him to the beſt Regards of the Citizens of *London*) is well known, and whoſe Influence is feared by the Corrupted and Baſe, as prevailing wherever he comes, which ſome have found, and others may find, to their Coſt: I ſay, at the Motion of this Gentleman, (who always had been found a ſincere Friend to Liberty and his Country, and to have the Rights and Privileges, Trade and Happineſs, of the City of *London*, ſincerely at Heart) ſeconded by Mr. *Charles Hitch*, by the unanimous Conſent of the Common Hall, the Thanks of the Liverymen were given to *George Heathcote* Eſq; for ſupporting the Liberties of his Fellow Citizens, in declining the Office of Lord Mayor for the enſuing Year.

And every Gentleman who is acquainted with Mr. *Heathcote*, muſt be aſſured, that as he has done hitherto the utmoſt in his Power, that your worthy Alderman, his Senior, ſhould have the honourable Office conferred on him, which he well deſerves, and if we may judge by what is paſt, would behave in with Honour to himſelf, and Advantage to the Publick, ſo he will yet

make

make uſe of every legal Method, left him to make uſe of, to baffle and defeat the ſiniſter Intentions of every Enemy, not only to the Quiet, but to the Honour, Trade, and Proſperity of the City of *London*; by ſtill abſolutely refuſing, unleſs by the Laws and Conſtitution of his Country oblig'd, to take the Chair, and ſerve the Office of Lord-Mayor, in Bar of him, if the unanimous Voices of the Common-Hall might he allowed to decide it, whoſe undoubted Right it is to ſerve it before him.

Here give me leave, Gentlemen, to obſerve, as well worthy of general Obſervation, that in this Day of great Depravity and Corruption, at a Time when others are bartering their Country and their Conſciences for Gain; ſelling themſelves, and perhaps their Poſterity, for Poſts and Places of Honour and Profit; one of your own Number, one among yourſelves, appears with a true Greatneſs of Soul, which does Honour not only to himſelf, and his Country, but even to the human Nature; the Ties of Friendſhip with him are inviolable, and he prefers his Friend, and the Satisfaction and Liberties of the Liverymen of *London*, to the higheſt Dignity he could be inveſted with; when his Advancement to it, muſt be at the Expence of either.

No Man was ever more arduous, and in earneſt, in his Attempts at Preferment, than Mr. *Heathcote for the Reaſons juſt given*, has been, and ſtill is, to avoid if poſſible, the being preferred, though to the moſt honourable Poſt the Metropolis of the Kingdom is capable of placing him in: He deſpiſes the Profits, and diſdains the Honours which are not given him by the univerſal Conſent of the worthy Liverymen of *London*; it is from them alone he would be pleaſed with Preferment; it is them whom

whom he looks upon to be the ſole Fountain of Honour in the City of *London*.

Upon the Whole, this Gentleman diſcovers ſuch a heroick Conſtancy, and ſuch a glorious publick Spirit, as would have done Honour to the nobleſt *Roman*, when *Rome*, and publick Virtue flouriſhed in greateſt Perfection.

Mr. *Heathcote*'s Conduct, upon the preſent Occaſion, muſt redound to his everlaſting Praiſe; it muſt, *if poſſible*, more than ever endear him to his Fellow Citizens; make his Name valued by every Friend to Virtue and Liberty in the Kingdom, and tranſmit a Memorial of him, in the moſt advantageous Light, to Poſterity.

Thus, as no legal Means have been, ſo none will be, unaſſayed to baulk the Expectations of the Fomenter of Diviſions and Animoſities, whoever he may be, and preſerve both the Peace of the City, and that Intereſt entire, which is the grand Bulwark of the Liberties, Rights, and Privileges of the Citizens: The Triumphs of the Wicked are often but ſhort; and there is not much Reaſon to doubt, but that they will be found ſo upon this Occaſion.

The Citizens of *London* have formerly ſometimes been ill uſed; tho' it ſeldom happened to be their Lot, but that the Miſchief done, or intended them, turned againſt the Contriver of the Ill; and he was taken in the very Net he had laid for them: It has been in the Power of the Citizens of *London* to bring a WICKED MINISTER to the Block; and what has been, may, *ſhould any ſuch ever appear*, be again; and when he does appear, let him remember and tremble. Their Complaints and Accuſations, and even their juſt Reproaches, in Times paſt, have made an immediate, and a mighty Alteration in the towering Circumſtances

of

of a *miſchievous, revengeful Favourite.* Theſe have been the Means of ſtripping an Upſtart of his ill-got Wealth and Power in a Moment, as it were, and of loading him with that Infamy, which, as it has done to our Day, will in all Probability render his Name and Memory odious through every Age to come.

Since the former Part of this went to the Preſs, Sir *Robert Godſchal* has had ſome Amends made him for the Diſappointment intended him, by having had the Honour of being plentifully abuſed by a Writer in the *Gazetteer*; it would be an unpardonable Preſumption in me, or in any Man, to attempt the entering a Gentleman of Sir *Robert Godſchal*'s Diſtinction, Merit, and Fortune, into a Diſpute with an anonymous Writer in the *Gazetteer*; his Country will do him Juſtice againſt the glaring impudent Falſhoods of the *Impoſtor Liveryman*; and as for the Scurrilities and the low Abuſe his Letter abounds with, theſe will certainly meet from Sir *Robert Godſchal*, what, *in the Shape they are conveyed in*, theſe would always meet from any Gentleman, *as the beſt Return* that can be *made*, *tho—rough Contempt* and *Silence.*

But to return to the *Huſtings*: If we may be allowed to form a Judgment of the Matter, by a famous Speech, which ſeemed calculated for bringing a favourite Point to bear, the whole Affair appeared to be predetermined and ſettled; and that the Speech was deſigned, as has been ſaid, to conciliate the Minds of the Liverymen to what was intended; and prepare them for what was afterwards to be the Tranſaction of the Day.

That this Speech, ſo well deſerving to be recorded and remembered, may be preſerved, and become as publick as it ought to be, I ſhall, as far as my Memory will aſſiſt me, give you the Subſtance of it in the Words it was delivered, by the worthy Gentleman who ſpoke it. *The*

The ———'s Speech to the Liverymen of London, *to the Effect as follows:*

GENTLEMEN,

YOU are all ſo well apprized of the Buſineſs that a Court of *Huſtings* is this Day held upon, that I will not take up a Moment of your Time in ſaying any more upon that Head than is abſolutely neceſſary.

But there are two Particulars which more immediately require your ſerious Attention: You are met together in the Common-Hall, Gentlemen, according to antient, and your undoubted, Right ſo to do, to return to this honourable Court, two Perſons, duly qualified, one of which is to be choſen by a Majority of the Aldermen preſent, Lord Mayor of this City, for the Year enſuing.

This, Gentlemen, is your Part: 'Tis a high and an honourable Office the Gentlemen, you this Day return, will be Candidates for; and great Care ought, and undoubtedly will, be taken, to fill it with one equal to the Importance of the Truſt repoſed in him, and the Expectations from him; one of known Loyalty to his Majeſty King *George*, and well-affected to our happy Eſtabliſhment in Church and State; whoſe thorough Knowledge of our Conſtitution; and ſtedfaſt Zeal for the Honour and Intereſt of this great City in particular, may be an Aſſurance to you, that he will worthily and faithfully diſcharge the Duties of this Poſt, become a public Bleſſing, and finiſh his Courſe of Magiſtracy with Honour to himſelf, and Satisfaction to you.

And when you have made your Return of the two Gentlemen, whom you may think proper to preſent to this honourable Court, in order to their elect-

electing one of them Chief Magiſtrate of this City for the Year enſuing, your Part is finiſhed, and you have diſcharged your Duty to your Fellow Citizens; it then lies wholly in the Breaſt of the Right Honourable the preſent Lord Mayor, and the Majority of the honourable Court of Aldermen to determine, on which of the two Candidates the Election ſhall fall; and to declare which of them, they pleaſe, duly elected; in their Choice you muſt, and ought, to acquieſce: And as this honourable Court have always ſhewn that they have the Honour, Proſperity, and Happineſs of their Fellow Citizens really at Heart; and both through Intereſt and Inclination, have ever been the great Supporters of their Liberties, Rights, and Privileges, we may aſſure ourſelves, Gentlemen, that this Day's Determination will be the Effect of mature Deliberation, of Wiſdom, and Prudence; and ſolely made with a View of Service to your general Welfare; and I ſhall rejoice to find it is alſo to your general Approbation.

The Tendency of this Speech was readily diſcovered by the Gentlemen on the *Huſtings*; and by many who could hear it below in the Hall, and they expected what followed: The Common-Hall were unanimous in Favour of Sir *Robert Godſchal*, Knight, and *George Heathcote*, Eſq; and it might have puzzled the moſt diſcerning Man alive, to have found out which of them had moſt Hands held up in his Favour; however, the worthy Aldermen preſent adjudged Mr. *Heathcote* to be the Man; and declared him duly elected.

As it is impoſſible to deſcribe the Reſentment, with which this Declaration was received in the Hall, ſo it would be highly imprudent and improper in me, to repeat *what was the Effect of that Reſentment*,—the bitter Invectives which were uttered againſt a certain Perſon, who was thought to have no ſmall Share in the Tranſactions of that Day. Though how exaſperated ſoever others might be, at the undeſerved Treatment, as it was thought, which a worthy Gentleman had met with, he himſelf heard the Determination againſt him with great Calmneſs and Compoſure. Not conſcious that he had ever done any thing to deſerve being refuſed an Office, which, according to Seniority, he had Cauſe to expect, he ſeemed perfectly eaſy and undiſturbed; he roſe up and ſpoke to the Gentlemen of the Common-Hall; but it was in a ſedate and mild a Manner, as if the Favour they had intended him, had been conferred upon him: He appealed to them for Juſtice to his Character in Life; and left it with them to juſtify their own Conduct towards him, to the World; and there is no Queſtion to be made of it, but in due Time they will do both, by their future Behaviour, at leaſt to the general Satisfaction of Mankind.

Thus have I given you, Friends and Fellow Citizens, whatever paſſed, that was material, on this never-to-be-forgotten Day of Election: The Inducement to ſuch an extraordinary, and ſo very unexpected a Proceeding muſt be evident to all Perſons of Diſcernment; or they may at leaſt be much more eaſily gueſſed at, than can yet be diſcovered, what may be the Conſequences of a Step ſo very diſagreeable as this ſeems to have been, to ſo conſiderable a Body as the Liverymen

men of *London*, who appear in general to be highly disobliged and incensed.

The sober sensible Part of Mankind are apt to think, that the thwarting of the Citizens of *London*, in a favourite Point, a Point they seemed intent and wholly bent upon carrying, was as ill-judged and awkward an Expedient, as any Man could have pitched upon, for allaying the unnatural Heats and Animosities, which have too long triumphed over all the Attempts of those who wish, and heartily endeavour at, a Reconciliation; at the making up of all our Breaches, and to have Unanimity, Peace, and good Neighbourhood established among us.

But so salutary a Scheme, it is not to be supposed could be acceptable, or would ever meet the Approbation of the Man, if any such should ever be found among us; whose Hopes of Safety were placed in our Divisions, or who could find his Account in blowing up the Coals, and sowing Dissentions among us; such a one, it is natural to suppose, would employ his whole Art, and rack his Invention to encrease the Ferment; he would try every Stratagem in his Power, to heighten our Disputes, and keep open those Sores, which honest and good Men, and all true Lovers of their Country, would rejoice to see healed and closed up.

Though should this in any After-time be the Case, how much in vain, and to no Purpose, would it be to complain, against the evil Practices of any Man then in Power; how just, or well-grounded, soever the Complaint might then be, against the *Minister*, 'tis not to be disputed, but that he would have his *Creatures* and *Tools*, ready, *as we ourselves have formerly been more than once witness to, in our Day*, to reproach those who represented real Grievances, arising wholly from the

the Ignorance, or Wickedneſs of the Miniſter, as ſeditious, and publick Incendiaries; diſaffected to the Perſon and Government of the King, *who ever might then be upon the Throne*, debauching the Minds of his faithful Subjects, and alienating their Affections from him; thus endeavouring, *which is as ſtale a Device, that ever was, and perhaps, ever will be, practiſed by a wicked Miniſter*, to render the People, whenever made uneaſy, odious to their Prince; when it is not unlikely, that the Miniſter himſelf, was the only Cauſe of their Uneaſineſs; the principal Grievance they had to complain of, and his Management the Sourſe of all their Sufferings.

We need not go many Ages back, to find ſeveral parallel Inſtances to this in the Hiſtory of our own Countr y: We have had among ourſelves ambitious, revengeful Men at the Head of Affairs, who, when their Inſolence and Avarice; their Weakneſs or Wickedneſs, and, perhaps, both, have become inſupportable; and almoſt brought a brave, rich, and powerful Nation to Ruin; when their deteſtable Management at Home and Abroad, have ſet the Hearts of their Countrymen a bleeding, and extorted from them the juſt Repreſentation of their Fears; the Hardſhips they labour'd under, and the more dreadful Diſtreſs they lived in the daily and almoſt hourly Apprehenſions of; then have theſe equitable Remonſtrances, and juſt Repreſentations of their Sufferings, been turned againſt the People, and made to encreaſe the Weight of their Burthens: They have been treated as factious and clamourous; and the King and his Government have, upon all Occaſions, been lugg'd in, to ſcreen the Oppreſſors of his Subjects, from a proper Inquiry into their

their Conduct, and the juſt Reſentments of an injured Nation.

As this has often been the Caſe, though very different from what ought to have been, ſo it is highly probable that it may often be ſo again: It has been true in Fact, that when the People meant the *Miniſter*, it was he alone, who would have it that they meant his *Maſter*; and the Time could be named when a Prince upon the Throne of *England* was univerſally beloved, and enjoyed the unfeigned Affection of all his Subjects, when his Miniſter and Favourite has been as univerſally hated; the ſole Cauſe of Diſſatisfaction and Uneaſineſs in the Kingdom, and the only Perſon at whoſe Conduct their Curſes and Complaints were all levelled.

A Prince could be named, who has had the Hearts of all his People; when every Hand in his Dominions has been held up, and every Mouth opened, *thoſe of a few Mercenaries only excepted*, againſt his Miniſter: But tho' theſe are Things we have often read and heard of, *Heaven be praiſed*, we have never known them, or have any Reaſon to fear we ever ſhall.

To recover the Digreſſion, and conclude: You have, Friends and Fellow Citizens, very worthily diſtinguiſhed yourſelves, on a late extraordinary Occaſion, which will not readily be forgot; what may be the Iſſue of that Proceeding cannot yet be determined; continue to act, as you have hitherto done, with Firmneſs, Unanimity, and Reſolution, and you will then have no occaſion to fear any Conſequences: 'Tis ſuch a Behaviour will awe your Enemies, *if you have any*, and ſecure yourſelves. The Rights and Privileges, the Peace and Proſperity, of the Citizens of *London*, are in your own Keeping; and theſe will be all

ſafe

ſafe under your Guardianſhip, whilſt you exert yourſelves with a laudable Zeal on the Behalf of theſe invaluable Bleſſings; you can have no Enemies, but thoſe who are Enemies to their Country; and as you have not the leaſt Reaſon to fear their Power, ſo you may deſpiſe their Malice.

I am,

Gentlemen,

London
Oct. 4. 1740.

Your ſincere Well-wiſher

And moſt obedient

humble Servant,

A CITIZEN.

FINIS.